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Stephen Bottomley Retrospective Exhibition

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“A unifying trend within Art, Craft and Design over the last forty years has been the slow breakdown of the boundaries between them.

Yet Information Technology, the most important design development this century, is widely regarded with skepticism by the craft fraternity. Often it is seen as having no place in what is rightly celebrated as a 'hands on' practice. To me this seemed contrary to the liberating modern trend. Why start building boundaries again?”

Stephen Bottomley, 1998

Portrait of Stephen Bottomley Bristol 2006

STEPHEN BOTTOMLEY

Retrospective

7 - 28 November 2012

Stephen Bottomley is currently head of Jewellery and Silversmithing at Edinburgh College of Art and we are delighted to be hosting this retrospective exhibition.

Born in Norwich 1967, he studied at Farnham then Brighton, before graduating from the Royal College of Art, London in 2001. For more than twenty years Stephen Bottomley has reflected an emerging digital age in the creation of contemporary jewellery with a quietly confident minimalist beauty.

The work in this exhibition spans the two decades each side of the turn of the Millennium, a period that most clearly witnessed the gradual shift across many craft practices as digital possibilities were explored and accepted.

Clarity of line, simplicity of form and pattern are all trademarks of his jewellery made with the traditional skills of Goldsmiths interwoven with the then newly emergent computercontrolled tools of design and manufacture. It is work that does not rely on technological innovation alone, but has at its root an original aesthetic authenticity and a love of material.

Front cover: Cat 67 Black Diamond Brooch 2012 50 mm square Photograph: Shannon Tofts



Cat 20 Blue Champlevé
Brooch 1999 precious
white metal and enamel
90 mm diam



Cat 1 Layered Brooch 1989 titanium and precious white metal 90 x 52 x 12 mm



Cat 18 Frame brooch with 3
panels 1998 precious yellow
metal 40 x 45 x 16 mm



Cat 22-23 Fingerprint earrings 2000 precious yellow metal 12 x 8 x 4 mm



Cat 21 Fingerprint earrings 1998 silver 21 x 12 mm



Cat 10 Necklace 1998
precious yellow metal
and tourmaline 700 x
45 mm



Cat 5 Ear Cogs 1995 gold electroplated nickel 65 x 14 mm



Cat 11 Ruff neckpiece
large 1998 precious white
metal 240 x 20 mm



Cat 16 Black Ruff 2002 oxidised precious white metal 160 x 14 mm



Cat 12 Silk Ruff neckpiece
1998 precious white metal
180 x 16 mm



Cat 17 Ruff Choker 2002 precious metals pearls 125 mm



Cat 28 Red basse taille brooch 2002 enamel precious white metal 55 x 32 x 8 mm



Cat 26 Segment earrings 2002 precious yellow metal 19 x 14 x 9 mm



Cat 29 Loop Necklace 2003 precious white metal 400 mm



Cat 30 Disc Brooch 2004 precious white metal 60 mm

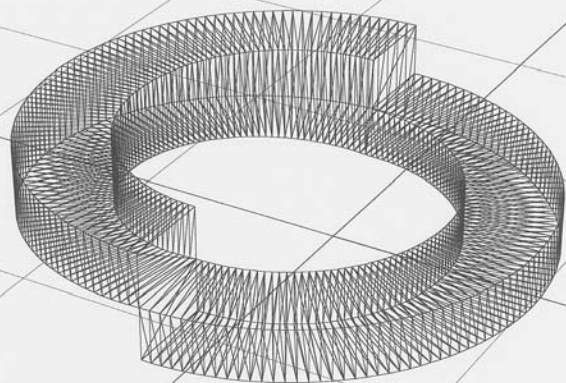


Cat 31. Disc earrings, 2004, precious yellow metal, 35 x 31 x 3 mm

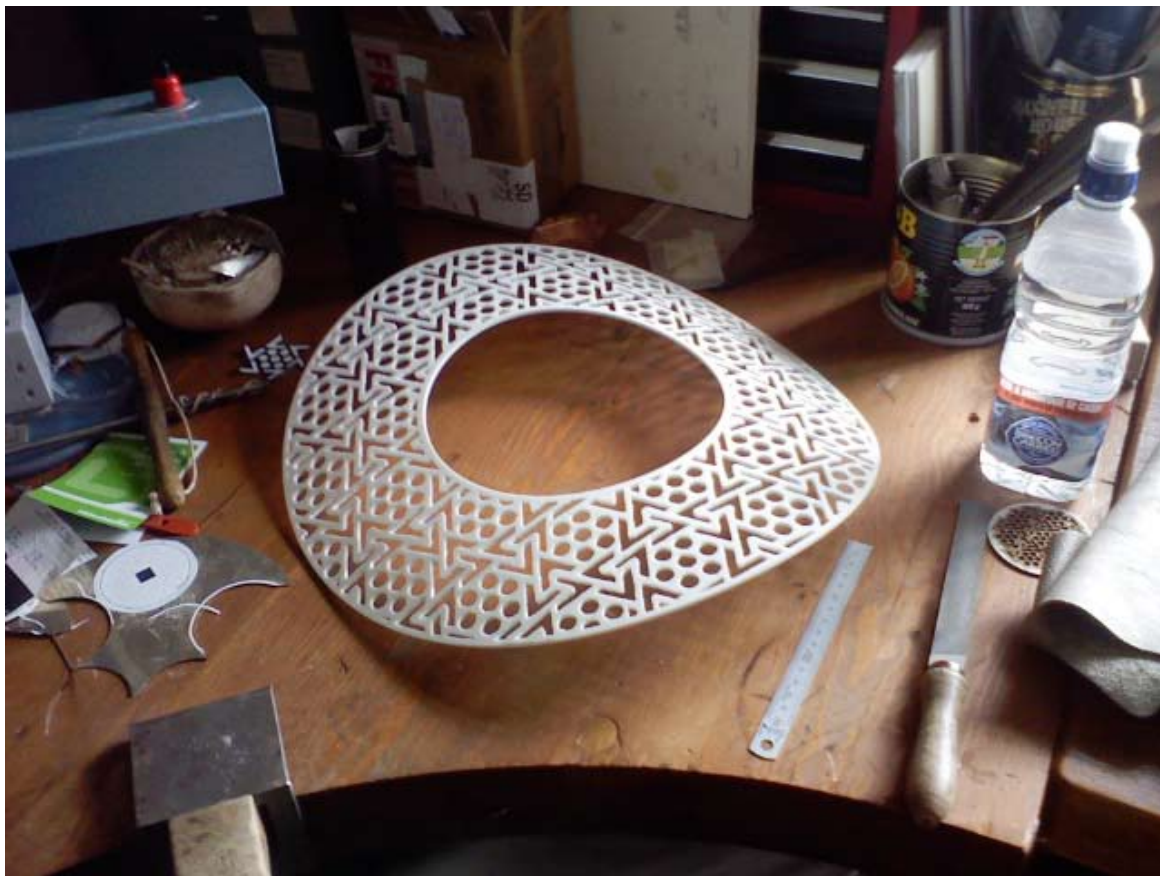


Above/Right: Acrylic Bangles 2005 120 mm





“Digital technologies play a hidden underpinning role in the translation of textile surfaces to metal by etching and printing techniques. The final stages of printing and enamelling reinforce the animated state of these enriched patterns.”



2007 studio Sheffield



Tech-tile exhibition installation at Hove Museum and Art Gallery, 2008

“Tech-tile was a three year project (2004-2007) run jointly between Sheffield and Venice that extended my applied art practice through technological creative interpretations of two distinct craft legacies, namely, textiles and jewellery.

The work explores the interdisciplinary practice, utilising digital design as the means to transfer pattern from textile to resistant materials like metal and plastic, building geometric motifs with computer aided design and manufacture, into wearable contemporary jewels.”



2007 Drape neckpiece



2007 Drape large



No 3 Neckpiece Drape series 2007 precious metal and acrylic 299 mm



Cat 52 Drape Bangle oxidised silver and acrylic 2007 185mm diam

"The jewellery made following this concept thus becomes a bond in the long itinerary that links artistic know-how and technology, uncontrolled imagination and commercial considerations, linguistic specificity and utter contamination. The preservation of the asymmetry of Fortuny's patterns in the finished jewellery is particularly effective and clever. The effect of the small imperfections on the metal (purposely achieved by Fortuny in his fabrics as a result of great experimentation) permeates it with an almost undetectable sensation that eliminates the possibility of a trivial relation between materials and drawing. Thus Stephen's works rightly stand among the most important European designs, giving rise to a successful blend of production and experimentation, which is the only real guarantee of a revolutionary language."

Silvio Fuso, 2007

Director Ca' Pesaro
Musei Civici Veneziani
Exhibited at the Fortuny Museum 2007



Cat 57 Matrici brooch 2008 acrylic and precious white metal 55 x 55 x 3.5 mm



Cat 56 Matrici brooch 2008 acrylic and precious white metal 55 x 55 x 3.5 mm

"I am fascinated by oriental motifs and mathematical symmetries. I shift lines and geometries, softening them by stretching metal and then enamelling transparent and opaque surfaces."



Cat 50 Star badge 2007 steel acrylic and enamel
70 x 12 mm



Cat 48 Star badge 2007 steel acrylic and enamel
70 x 12 mm



Cat 49 Star badge 2007 steel acrylic and enamel 70
x 12 mm

"A short period teaching and travelling in Seoul, South Korea in 2010 has inspired a group of work that explores surface, colour and form in a series of brooches. Working with the delicacy of patterned textiles I seek to recapturing their qualities in fine enamelled metalwork as contemporary jewellery."

Stephen Bottomley, 2012



Cat 59 Blue Patch brooch 2011 oxidised silver enamel precious yellow metal and steel 50 mm square



Cat 64 Lemon Yellow Patch Brooch 2011 lemon yellow enamel silver gold 50 mm square



Cat 61 Blue and white stripe brooch 2012 enamel silver gold 50 mm square



Cat 63 Red Dot brooch 2012 50 mm square Photograph: Shannon Tofts



Cat 65 Gold Square Brooch 2012 silver enamel precious yellow metal steel 50 mm square



Cat 67 Black Diamond Brooch 2012 50 mm square



Cat 67 Black Diamond Brooch 2012 50 mm square Photograph: Shannon Tofts



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